



MOUNTAIN WATER COMPANY

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ARVID M. HILLER
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Memo of Support for House Bill No. 107

To: House Natural Resources Committee.

Dear Chairman McNutt and Committee Members,

My name is Arvid M. Hiller and I am the Vice President and General Manager of Mountain Water Company, 1345 W. Broadway, Missoula, Montana

Mountain Water Company is a privately owned water utility regulated by the Montana Public Service Commission. We serve potable water to about 65,000 residents of Missoula.

I am here to testify in support of the Montana DEQ request to increase the per service connection fee from the current amount of \$2.00 to \$2.50. When the original legislation was created to assess this fee in 1991, I was here and testified in favor of this assessment. It was apparent in 1991 that additional funds were needed by the department to aid them in implementing the regulations and requirements put upon them by the Federal EPA. Since Montana retains primacy over water quality enforcement, it is necessary for the DEQ to implement and regulate water quality standards that are as stringent as or more stringent than federally mandated standards. As you all know, inflationary pressures have increased in all areas and the DEQ and state departments are not immune to these pressures. I believe that this modest request to increase the maximum amount for this assessment is a reasonable request.

It has always been our companies' view that it is better to have regulation and enforcement of regulations as close to the affected parties as possible. Mountain Water has never felt as though the State DEQ has been burdensome or heavy handed in their role as regulators of water system design or water quality enforcement. We have always looked to them as partners in assuring reliable safe water to our customers. So let's fund our State DEQ at a level that helps keep the service and water quality where our citizens can trust it will be there and be safe.

Thank You,

Arvid M. Hiller
Vice President and General Manager
Mountain Water Company